

Alexander White to Thomas Jefferson, April 13, 1802, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Alexander White to Jefferson

Recd. Apr. 13. *Commissioners Office 13th April 1802*

Sir

In consequence of what you were pleased to mention this morning I send a rough sketch of a Resolve respecting a subject which I do not feel myself competent to act on. I have examined the Essays of Nicholas King while he was in the employ of the Commissioners, and acting under the auspices of Doctor Thornton, from which it appears that their Idea was to carry a Water Street 80 feet wide through the whole extent of the Patowmac and Eastern Branch, one hundred feet distant from the Channel, having all the space between that and the shore which in some instances I am inclined to believe is not less than one thousand feet, under water until it shall be filled up. I do not see the propriety of this, and

have drawn the Resolve in such general terms, that without deviating from it, the President may direct the Street to be laid out in any manner he may think most proper.

I shall with great pleasure facilitate your views, but unless I can get away on Saturday next it will subject me to considerable inconvenience—I am with sentiments of the highest respect

Sir

Your most Obt Servt Alexr White

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PRESIDENT OF THE U. STATES

[Ms., *Jefferson Papers*, Library of Congress.]

Alexander White to Jefferson

[*April* 13th 1802]

Resolved, as the opinion of the Board that a Plan of the City of Washington on which the public appropriations, as they are described in the several Acts of the President of the U States directing the conveyance thereof to the Commissioners; the Squares or Parcels of ground which have been divided, or prepared for division, as building lots; and the Streets as actually laid out on the ground, shall be plainly and distinctly delineated—ought to be engraved, and published under the sanction of the President of the U. States—And that a Street round those parts of the City which bind on navigable water ought also to be designated on such plan so that the same, in such parts as are covered with water, may hereafter be made, agreeably to an established Rule—

[Ms., *Jefferson Papers*, Library of Congress.]